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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 12 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 10.7 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 50 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 887.1 billion ton-miles, virtually the same as the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 12 totaled 406,453 cars, 11.8 percent below 1980, but 2.6 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.2 percent in the East, 10.0 percent in the South, and 14.1 percent in the West.

Eighteen of the 21 commodity groups were down from the corresponding week of 1980, although coal loadings were up 3,954 cars, or 3.2 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the previous week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended December 5 totaled 30,585 cars, up 1.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 59,933 trailers and/or containers, up 7.0 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 1,611,447 cars, 2.5 percent higher than last year, and 2,931,645 trailers and/or containers, 2.7 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/12/81:

	Loadings in Week ended <u>December 12, 1981</u>			Change from Corresponding <u>Week 1980</u>			Change from Preceding <u>Week</u>	
	Cars			Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,384	D		3,383	12.2	D	847	3.4
Other farm products	5,717	D		454	7.4	I	379	7.1
Metallic ores	23,848	D		10,488	30.5	D	2,227	8.5
Coal	127,015	I		3,954	3.2	I	5,304	4.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,867	D		2,163	18.0	D	106	1.1
Nonmetallic minerals	10,763	D		3,556	24.8	D	176	1.6
Grain mill products	13,110	D		4,028	23.5	I	654	5.3
Food and kindred products	14,523	D		2,347	13.9	I	95	0.7
Primary forest products	18,727	D		1,130	5.7	I	954	5.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,998	D		2,978	33.2	I	149	2.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	17,990	D		2,816	13.5	D	652	3.5
Chemicals and allied products	22,696	D		6,947	23.4	D	533	2.3
Petroleum products	5,081	D		650	11.3	D	159	3.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,347	D		3,660	24.4	I	348	3.2
Coke	5,787	I		271	4.9	D	348	5.7
Metals and products	12,048	D		3,784	23.9	D	97	0.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,109	D		5,117	25.3	I	2,104	16.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,801	D		4,358	30.8	I	510	5.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,333	D		1,438	13.4	I	970	11.6
All other carloads	43,045	I		594	1.4	I	3,912	10.0
LCL traffic	264	D		47	15.1	I	79	42.7
Total Cars Loaded	406,453	D		54,525	11.8	I	10,313	2.6

Corresponding week of 1980

460,978

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	20,976,437	21,867,517	D 4.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
49 Weeks cumulative	869.7	868.0	I 0.2
Week ended December 12	17.4	19.5	D 10.7
50 Weeks cumulative	887.1	887.5	D 0.0